



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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DA 07-819

Released: February 23, 2007

**REQUEST OF BIG BEND TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC., FOR AUTHORITY TO INCLUDE
IN ITS RATE BASE THE INTERSTATE PORTION OF THE PREPAID POST-EMPLOYMENT
HEALTH BENEFITS RECORDED IN ACCOUNT 1410, OTHER NONCURRENT ASSETS**

PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED

WC Docket No. 07-33

COMMENTS DUE: March 12, 2007

REPLY COMMENTS DUE: March 22, 2007

On January 26, 2007, Big Bend Telephone Company, Inc. (Big Bend) filed a letter requesting authority to include in its rate base the interstate portion of the prepaid post-employment health benefits recorded in Account 1410, Other noncurrent assets.¹ Big Bend uses a pre-funded trust for the retirement benefits, which has a pre-paid balance relating to post-retirement health benefits of \$476,429 as of December 31, 2005.

Interested parties may file comments on or before **March 12, 2007**, and reply comments on or before **March 22, 2007**. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies.² Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed.³ In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number, in this case

¹ Letter from Joan Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Big Bend Telephone Company, Inc., to Albert Lewis, Acting Chief, Pricing Policy Division, FCC (dated January 17, 2007).

² See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, GC Docket No. 97-113, Report and Order, 13 FCC Rcd 11322 (1998).

³ If multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of a proceeding, however, commenters must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. Similarly, commenters filing paper copies must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number.

WC Docket No. 07-33. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, “get form <your e-mail address>.” A sample form and directions will be sent in reply. Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). **Parties are strongly encouraged to file comments electronically using the Commission’s ECFS.**

The Commission's contractor, Natek, Inc., will receive hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 110, Washington, DC 20002.

- The filing hours at this location are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners.
- Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building.
- Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743.
- U.S. Postal Service first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554.

All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Marlene H. Dortch, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Room TW-A325, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554. Parties should also send a copy of their filings to Douglas Slotten, Pricing Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, Room 5-A233, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20554, or by e-mail to douglas.slotten@fcc.gov. Parties shall also serve one copy with the Commission's copy contractor, Best Copy and Printing, Inc. (BCPI), Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554, (202) 488-5300, or via e-mail to fcc@bcpweb.com.

Big Bend's letter and comments filed by participating parties will be available for public inspection and copying during business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th St. SW, Room CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554. The documents may also be purchased from BCPI, telephone (202) 488-5300, facsimile (202) 488-5563, TTY (202) 488-5562, or by e-mail at fcc@bcpweb.com. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (TTY).

This matter shall be treated as a “permit-but-disclose” proceeding in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.⁴ Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentations must contain summaries of the substance of the presentations and not merely a listing of the subjects discussed. More than a one- or two-sentence description of the views and

⁴ See 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1200, 1.1206.

arguments presented generally is required.⁵ Other requirements pertaining to oral and written *ex parte* presentations are set forth in section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules.⁶

For further information, contact Douglas Slotten of the Pricing Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau at (202) 418-1572.

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⁵ 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b)(2).

⁶ 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b).